



# Massachusetts

## ART Linkage Project

### Public Health Problem

There are few opportunities to understand the influence of assisted reproductive technology (ART) on short-term maternal and infant health outcomes. In Massachusetts, the percentage of infants born using ART is expected to rise as new policies regarding coverage of infertility/ART treatment services are expanded.

Research indicates that linking vital records data with other health events can yield information to support public policy decisions regarding the scope and nature of clinical health services.

### Taking Action

In 2001, CDC developed a collaborative project with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to link the existing ART surveillance data for infants born to Massachusetts resident women who attended ART clinics in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Data were obtained from state's birth and death certificate files. This project includes infants born to Massachusetts' resident mothers in 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000.

Approximately 80,000 babies are born in Massachusetts every year. The 1997/1998 linked ART and birth/death data set, for example, consists of approximately 160,000 infants born in Massachusetts to Massachusetts resident mothers, of which approximately 2 to 3 percent are the result of ART.

The analysis of data yields information that can help CDC and the state assess trends in the number of infants conceived with ART, the potential adverse health risks associated with ART in Massachusetts, and the impact of ART on adverse maternal and child health outcomes.

### Implications and Impact

Linkage of the ART surveillance data with Massachusetts linked birth and death certificate data will provide detailed information on short-term maternal and infant health outcomes. It is an example of how state public health programs, local clinicians/specialists, and CDC can partner to provide a model program to better understand a practice that may be widely adopted in the United States.

### Contact Information

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